



Commonwealth Minister for Environment
Hon Tanva Plibersek MP

Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP
Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning

Hon Leeann Linard MP
Minister for Environment Science & Innovation

Ipswich City Council Mayor
Mayor Teresa Harding

Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic

Cr Paul Tully

Dear Minister Plibersek, Minister Scanlon, Lord Mayor & IC Councillors Jonic and Tully

REF: App No – 6243/2023/LAP – 7001 Mur Boulevard, Springfield
Springfield Structure Plan over Woogaroo Forest

The Precinct plan for Springview (village 2 and 3) was approved by Ipswich City Council in March 2024. The Federal EPBC approval for this development remains under review. Springview is divided into 2 villages. Village 2: **DA 4272/2020/ADP** and Village 3: **547/2020/ADP**. Village one, Kalina, is located just east of the forest.

Protect the Bush Alliance (PTBA Inc) is an alliance of over thirty NGOs and community groups in Queensland and Australia representing over 60,000 people. Our goal is to implement ways of preventing the continuing loss of areas of high conservation values to inappropriate developments. One of the ways we do this is by conducting flora and fauna surveys on properties of high conservation value and on the properties which link them.

Through our community networking at PTBA, we have witnessed the plight of our country; the loss of habitat, the destruction of forest and grasslands, the contamination of waterways and the ever diminishing abundance and diversity of wildlife. These conditions are being exacerbated by adverse weather events resulting from climate change.

It is fortunate that this portion of the Precinct Plan for Springfield requires review under the EPBC Act. PTBA respectfully recommends this development does not proceed. Our findings are: [https://bruceboyes.info/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Conservation of Vineforests in South-East Queensland.pdf](https://bruceboyes.info/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Conservation_of_Vineforests_in_South-East_Queensland.pdf)

A conservation assessment of Vine Forest across Queensland includes reference to 'Woogaroo'.

Page 12 A Seriously Neglected Ecosystem

The number of seriously endangered plant species in the South-East Queensland vineforests is alarming. The high-priority sites that have been the focus of the specific site work for this Project feature nine endangered plant species, many of them endemic, and all with total populations of less than 150 plants. These species have not had a public profile, while large amounts of public attention is focused on species that are, by comparison, well conserved

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Fortunately, the situation is slowly changing, but there is a long way to go. **Report dated 1997.** In recent times, the Department of Environment has been doing some excellent vineforest conservation work. The conservation status of a number of sites has been improved by conversion to Nature Refuge, Conservation Park, National Park, or Scientific Area and further flora and fauna survey work has been carried out.

Page 26 (8) acknowledgement

Woogaroo Scrub Project Coordinator Lloyd Bird for supplying inspirational material about his vineforest restoration project on Woogaroo Creek, south of Camira between Brisbane and Ipswich.

Lloyd Bird was an esteemed flora ecologist responsible for the preservation of areas to conserve Lloyds Native Olive *Notelaela lloydii* and other significant threatened plant species in the Ipswich region.

https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=15002

The Woogaroo Vine Scrub is one of only four remaining in SEQ; it is imperative for the conservation of other listed flora species that the Woogaroo forest remains intact, notably:

Myrtaceae	Gossia gonoclada	Angle-Stemmed Myrtle	CR (NCA) E (EPBC)
Myrtaceae	Gossia hillii	Scaly Myrtle	CR (NCA)
Lamiaceae	Coleus habrophyllus	Shaggy-Leaved Plectranthus	E (NCA) E (EPBC)
Apocynaceae	Leichardtia coronata	Slender Milkvine	V (NCA)

We note that other adjacent developments in the district used this vegetated area as a pseudo-offset to justify their own clearing. Ipswich City Council is aware that an offset should not be developed. It is therefore of concern that approval may have been provided by an Ipswich Council Officer, prior to the election, when Ipswich City Council was in fact in caretaker mode.

We request assurance that this is a legitimate action by a public servant given the ICC had received hundreds of submissions against the development. It is likely no offset can be remedied for one of **four significant areas of vine scrub** left in the south east of Queensland. Offsets must be 'Nature Positive' to secure 'No Net Loss'. In every way, the development of any part of the Woogaroo Scrub is a loss to the integrity of the forest.

Further listed species are notable features of the forest; Koala, Powerful Owl, Grey-headed Flying Fox, White-throated Needle-tail and Tusked Frog.

The forest protects 3 areas acknowledged as 'hotspots' for bird diversity in the Ipswich region. Many suburbs in SEQ now support predominantly the 'bullies of the bush', including Sulphur Crested

Cockatoo, Crow, Currawong, Noisy Miner and Blue- faced Honeyeater. Significantly, Woogaroo Scrub provides for a bird assemblage which will cease to exist in SEQ, if we continue to clear areas of high biodiversity in such scarce eco-systems as vineforest. The various levels of the forest support native vegetation, providing suitable habitat for a broad range of bush birds, many of which have declined by more than 60%.

Koala have been recently and reliably identified; to suggest their presence is unlikely, confirms the standard of environmental assessment as sorely lacking in rigour.

The site is large enough to be held as a conservation park to provide for the security of listed species in the region. Walking tracks could be established with well situated public extension information for the benefit of residents in surrounding suburbs. There is immense value to health and prosperity by preserving green spaces for the enjoyment of wildlife. This forest is a breathing lung for pollution since the neighbourhood has four major transport corridors running parallel to Springfield; the Cunningham Highway, the Warrego Highway, the Ipswich Road and the rail corridor which transports coal overnight.

The image included, provides the reader an opportunity to consider the elevation of Woogaroo Scrub. It seems inconceivable that this steep terrain with deep gullies and a high ridgeline, would be 'terra formed' to create an alternative landscape for housing which could be built elsewhere.

This is not consistent with the Springfield Structure Plan (see section 1.3).

https://www.ipswichplanning.com.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0013/2065/ips_part_14_springfield_structure_plan.pdf

While in office as Minister for the Environment, the Hon Meaghan Scanlon amended the EPOLA Bill to avoid inappropriate developments being undertaken based on outdated biodiversity values.

<https://meaghanscanlon.com/news/media-releases/queensland-s-environmental-laws-strengthened/>

Established at the turn of the century, the SSP fails to acknowledge the true values of undeveloped land in this region in the context of multiple species at threat of further decline; particularly the flora species preserved in the Woogaroo Scrub.

Should this development application be opened to public submissions, PTBA will respond in detail.

In the first instance, we would hope the concept of a 'traffic lights' value assessment be applied.

<https://minister.dccew.gov.au/plibersek/transcripts/press-conference-labors-nature-positive-plan-better-environment-better-business>

It would save a great deal of community angst and unfortunate criticism of all levels of government, if this approval was declined at EPBC level, as many suggest it should be. This housing development would result in the loss of irreplaceable native scrub in SEQ. It behoves all levels of government to urgently avoid further harm:

<https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-brief/post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework>

Yours sincerely

[Sheena Gillman](#) | Chair of Conservation
BirdLife Southern Queensland
Chair Protect the Bush Alliance Inc

ABN 75 149 124 774
standing together to stop extinctions



Woogaroo Forest viewed from Scoparia Drive. Augustine Heights.